

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

conducting an online auction for the communications services, the online auction conducted via a distributed computing network;

causing display of a service provider rating in a user interface that indicates whether the service provider satisfactorily provided the communications services, the service provider rating presented during a subsequent online auction to indicate that a future communications service will be satisfactorily provided by the service provider; and

causing display of a recipient rating in the user interface during the subsequent online auction in which the service provider indicates whether a recipient of the communications services satisfactorily paid for the communications services.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

submitting a bid to an auction moderator via an online auction to provide a communication service ~~segment a stream of data according to a profile~~;

providing the communication service ~~a segmentation service to the stream of data~~;

receiving, at the auction moderator, a service provider rating from a recipient of the communication ~~segmentation~~ service indicating whether the communication ~~segmentation~~ service was satisfactorily provided; and

providing a recipient rating to the auction moderator in which a service provider of the communication ~~segmentation~~ service indicates whether the recipient of the segmentation service satisfactorily paid for the communications services.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving feedback regarding the recipient of the communication ~~segmentation~~ service, the feedback indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the communication ~~segmentation~~ service.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving the rating from a client communications device associated with the recipient of the communication segmentation service.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein providing the recipient rating comprises indicating the recipient's credit card accepted charges for the communication segmentation service.
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising causing display of the service provider rating during a future online auction of communications services to indicate that future communication segmentation services will be satisfactorily provided.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein providing the communication[[s]] service[[s]] comprises:

receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol,

segmenting the first data stream into segments,

dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services,

receiving results of the subsequent processing services,

determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider,

grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service,

subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service,

receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service,

- aggregating the results of the subsequent processing services and the subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream, and
- communicating the second data stream via the communications network.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:
- auctioning a block of time of communications ~~usage of a segmentation~~ service that may be shared between multiple client communications devices;
- receiving a bid at an auction moderator that conducts an auction ~~processor~~ for the block of time ~~during an online auction~~;
- selecting the bid to provide the block of time ~~segmenting streams of data according to the segmentation service~~; and
- receiving at the auction moderator a service provider rating from a recipient of the communications service, the service provider rating indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the communications service; and
- receiving ~~providing~~ a recipient rating at the auction moderator ~~processor~~ in which a service provider of the communications ~~segmentation~~ service indicates whether the recipient of the communications ~~segmentation~~ service satisfactorily paid for the block of time.
9. (Cancel)
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the block of time comprises at least one of i) a maximum data transfer rate and ii) a minimum data transfer rate.
11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time between multiple recipients of the communications ~~segmentation~~ service.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time between multiple telephone numbers.
13. (Cancel)
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time between the multiple client communications devices associated with multiple users.
15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising negotiating with a group of recipients for the communications segmentation service, the group comprising recipients willing to pay for the communications segmentation service and recipients unwilling to pay for the communications segmentation service, wherein the recipients willing to pay for the communications segmentation service are permitted to sponsor the recipients unwilling to pay for the communications segmentation service.
16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein providing the communications segmentation service comprises providing the communications segmentation service to both recipients willing to pay for the communications segmentation service and recipients unwilling to pay for the communications segmentation service.
17. (Cancel)
18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising presenting the service provider rating during a future online auction, wherein the service provider rating is used to inspire trust in other recipients that their future communications segmentation service will be satisfactorily provided.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein providing the communications segmentation service comprises:

receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol,
segmenting the first data stream into segments,
dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services,
receiving results of the subsequent processing services,
determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider,
grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service,
subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service,
receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service,
aggregating the results of the subsequent processing services and the subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream, and
communicating the second data stream via the communications network.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium storing processor executable instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

conducting an auction of ~~auctioning~~ a block of time of usage of a communications segmentation service that may be shared between multiple client communications devices;
receiving a bid at an auction moderator ~~processor~~ for the block of time ~~during an online auction~~;

~~segmenting streams of data according to the segmentation service; and~~
accepting the bid;

~~receiving providing~~ a recipient rating at the auction moderator processor in which
a service provider of the communications segmentation service indicates whether a
[[the]] recipient of the communications segmentation service satisfactorily paid for the
block of time; and

receiving at the auction moderator a service provider rating from the recipient of
the communications service, the service provider rating indicating whether the recipient
was satisfied with the communications service.